Jones Sisters Collection
MS 14

Finding aid prepared by Anita Carrico

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
March 2005
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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Title	Jones Sisters Collection
Date [inclusive]	1920-1940
Extent	2.0 Linear feet 2 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	The Jones Sisters Collection consists of hand painted photographs dating from the 1920s to the 1940s. The collection includes 21 undated photographs, each matted and signed. Each photograph is numbered with a brief description of the photograph. Also included is the Jones Sisters' book, Maryland History through the Camera’s Eye, 1944. The book contains 25 signed postcard size hand painted photographs of landmarks in counties in Maryland.

Biographical/Historical note

The Jones Sisters were Miss Elsie Sluby, Miss Ida Webb, and Miss Frances Isabelle. They were born in the 1870s and 1880s, and lived together in and around Sykesville, MD. Inspired by Ida's classes at the Maryland Institute of Art and their love of beauty and history, they launched into a career of shooting fine photographs of a variety of subjects, many local, and hand coloring them with oil paints. Elsie took the photographs. Ida hand colored them, and Frances wrote the brief histories which accompanied the photos.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes 21 photographs, each matted and approximately 11 inches by 14 inches. The mats were signed in pencil, "Jones Sisters" directly under the photo on the right hand side. All of the photos are undated. They are numbered with a brief description of the subject on the reverse of the mats. They are numbered 1 thru 23, with numbers 5 and 20 missing. Only six of these images duplicate those in the large format photo collection. Also included in the collection is Maryland History through the Camera's Eye (1944) by the Jones Sisters. The book contains 25 postcard size hand painted photographs of landmarks in counties in Maryland, each signed in pencil by the Jones Sisters.

Arrangement

The Jones Sister Collection consists of three series as noted below.

Series I: Introductory Materials This series contains a photocopy of the section on the Jones Sisters from the book, Images of America: Sykesville by Bill Hall, published in 2001 by Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, SC. (MD F182.7.S9H35 2001), as well as the original list of images. Also included is a copy of a web page about the Jones Sisters and some notes pertaining to Gate House Museum contacts used in research.

Series II: Published Book Maryland History through the Camera's Eye, (1944) by the Jones Sisters. 4 copies, each signed.

Series III: Photographs Twenty-one photographs, hand painted, matted and signed in pencil by the Jones Sisters

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections March 2005

Revision Description

Entered into Archivist's Toolkit by Joan M. Wolk. January 2015

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Immediate Source of Acquisition note

The Jones Sisters Collection of hand painted photographs most likely dates from the 1920s to the 1940s. There is no information on how the collection came to the Pratt Library. Cousins of the sisters maintain a large portion of the Jones Sisters work and artifacts today. The Gate House Museum in Sykesville, MD also owns a large collection of the Jones Sisters painted photographs; however, those at the Pratt are larger in format.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Gate House Museum. (Sykesville, Md)
- Maryland Institute, College of Art.

Family Name(s)

- Jones Sisters

Genre(s)

- Books
- manipulated photographs
- photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- Sykesville (Md.)

Personal Name(s)

- Isabelle, Frances
- Sluby, Elsie
- Webb, Ida

Subject(s)

- photography--Maryland

Collection Inventory

Series I: Introductory Materials	**Box** 1	**Folder** 1
Series II: Books	**Box** 1	**Folder** 2
Subseries 1: Maryland History through the Camera's Eye (1944) (MD XF172.3 .J66) 4 copies 1944	**Box** 1	**Folder** 2
Series III: Photographs		**Box** 2
		Box
Photograph 1: "Homewood," home of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, now the Library at Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD.		2
Photograph 2: "Homewood," erected by Charles Carroll for his son in 1809, on part of a tract of land surveyed in 1670 for John Homewood.		2
Photograph 3: "Gilman Hall," home of Dr. Daniel Coit Gilman, first president of the University.		2
Photograph 4: Views from Gilman Hall tunnel overlooking the Campus		2
Photograph 5: Fort McHenry, Baltimore, MD		2
Photograph 6: Fort McHenry, Baltimore, MD		2

Photograph 7: Copy. Sallie Lloyd of Wye House and sister Mary Taylor Lloyd who married Francis Scott Key. Painted in the Chase home garden, Annapolis, MD.	2
Photograph 8: Kitchen in the home of Chief Justice Taney and brother-in-law of Francis Scott Key.	2
Photograph 9: Copy. Isabel Sluby, daughter of Nicholas Sluby of Sweden, whose ship was the first to enter the port of Rock Hall, who afterwards married David Jones, whom Jones Falls was named for.	2
Photograph 10: Catoctin Village, MD. Colonial village of Revolutionary fame.	2
Photograph 11: Catoctin Furnace, where one ton of bullets were made and sent to the Battle of Yorktown.	2
Photograph 12: Jug Bridge, Frederick, MD. Spanning the Moncsacy River. Built in 1807	2
Photograph 13: Old Toll Gate house, at the entrance of the Jug Bridge, Frederick, MD.	2
Photograph 14: “Prospect Hall,” built by Tasker Dulany, one of George Washington’s aides.	2
Photograph 15: “Waveland,” built by Larkin Dorsey in early nineteenthe century, on the New Year’s Gift tract, so named when patented in 1706, as a New Year’s Gift from the proprietary.	2
Photograph 16: Beneath the Boswood at Monpelier. Built in the late seventeenth century by Thomas Snowden.	2

Photograph 17: Indian peep holes surround the doorway at Whitehall, built in 1766 by Horatio Sharpe, last governor of the province. Constant watch was kept from these little peep holes for Indians coming up the Chesapeake Bay.	2
Photograph 18: Court House, Westminster, Carroll Co, MD. Built in 1836.	2
Photograph 19: An Old Covered Bridge, Harford County, MD	2
Photograph 20: Ellicott Mills, Howard county. Copy of old photograph, 1857	2
Photograph 21: “Deep Falls” St. Mary’s Co. Built by Major William Thomas about 1745 and is still owned by his descendants.	2
Photograph 22: Entrance to “Deep Falls.” Note the old latch and hinges.	2
Photograph 23: Southampton, St Mary’s Co., MD. Built by Richard Bond, in the seventeenth century, the ivy clinging to the huge chimneys is said to have been brought from Kenilworth Castle.	2